Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

OFAR

VOLUME 63 NUMBER 27

CONTENTS

Page

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

DECEMBER 31, 1951

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The Government of Iraq has authorized the Iraq Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, operator of the only textile mill in the country, to import raw cotton from the United States for a sum not exceeding 250,000 dinars ($700,000). At the current price level about 3,000 bales of cotton (of 500 pounds gross) could be purchased with this amount. The primary reason given for issuing an import license for United States cotton for the local mill was the high price for Iraqi cotton resulting from the current crop yielding less than had been expected, and the ensuing demand by Iraqi exporters for sufficient cotton to meet their export requirements. The Government stated, however, that authorization for the United States imports would be effective only if the company guaranteed to purchase all the domestic cotton not exported during the current season.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

SPAIN'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL; IMPORTS HIGHER

Spain's 1951 tobacco production is estimated at 39 percent above 1950, according to Burl Stugard, Agricultural Attache, Madrid. Imports of leaf during the first 5 months of 1951 were 39 percent above the corresponding 1950 period.

The country's 1951 tobacco crop is estimated at an all-time high of 47.3 million pounds from 31,777 acres, as compared with the 1950 output of 33.9 million pounds from 24,720 acres in 1950, and 30.9 million pounds from 28,699 acres in 1949. Yield per acre for the 1951 crop is estimated at 1,488 pounds, as compared with 1,373 pounds in 1950 and only 1,078 pounds per acre in 1949.

SPAIN: Tobacco acreage and production 1951 with comparisons

Year	Acreage	Per Acre	Production
	Acres	Pounds	1,000 pounds
1951 1/	31,777	1,488	47,730
1950	24,720	1,373	33,935
1949	28,696	1,078	30,935
1948	21,992	1,403	30,864

1/ Estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture of Spain.

U. S. Foreign Service Reports.

Leaf imports during January-May 1951 totaled 20.2 million pounds, compared with 14.2 million pounds in the same 1950 period. The Dominican Republic, the most important leaf source in 1951, supplied 14.4 million pounds, or 71 percent of the total imports; Brazil, the second most important source, supplied 4.0 million pounds, or 20 percent. The remaining 9 percent of leaf imports were supplied in varying quantities by Canada, Cuba, and Paraguay.

NEW ZEALAND'S TOBACCO
PRODUCTION STEADY

New Zealand's 1951-52 leaf production is tentatively forecast at about the same level as in 1950-51, according to M. T. Foster, Agricultural Attache, Wellington.

The country's 1951-52 tobacco production is forecast at about 5.5 million pounds from 4,000 acres. This is comparable to the acreage and production during 1950-51, but is somewhat above the 1949-50 output of 4.7 million pounds from 3,950 acres. New Zealand's prewar (1935-39) annual average production was only 1.5 million pounds from 2,000 acres.

NYASALAND'S TOBACCO SALES
HIGHER; PRICES LOWER

Nyasaland's 1951 tobacco sales were 13 percent above 1950, according to K. M. Geoghegan, Consulate General, Salisbury. Average price per pound during 1951 was slightly lower for all types of leaf, except flue-cured, as compared with 1950 leaf prices.

The country's sale of tobacco by weight and average price per pound during 1951 were as follows: Fire-cured leaf sales totaled 25.4 million pounds in 1951 with an average price of 12.8 U.S. cents per pound, as compared with 24.0 million pounds at an average price of 19.6 U.S. cents per pound in 1950; Sun-cured sales totaled 5.3 million pounds at an average price of 18.7 U.S. cents compared with 4.4 million pounds at 21.4 U.S. cents in 1950; Burley type sales totaled almost 1.4 million pounds at 25.7 U.S. cents per pound compared with only 807,000 pounds at 27.1 U. S. cents in 1950; flue-cured sales totaled 4.0 million pounds at an average price of 39.7 U.S. cents compared with 2.6 million pounds at only 36.4 U.S. cents per pound in 1950.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINE WOOL MARKET
CONTINUES INACTIVE

Trade in export wool continues inactive in Argentina owing to the different price views of local sellers and foreign buyers according to C.A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. A flurry occurred recently when Dutch and other foreign buyers arranged to purchase low crossbred wools for resale in the United States at a considerable discount, making up the difference in barter and currency manipulations. These deals now are being stopped by Government refusal to grant export licenses for wool entering triangular trade. The Government contends that such sales, at discounts of 15 percent or more under the Argentine quotation, may weaken further the market and therefore work against the Argentine price demands.

The spread between United States and Argentine prices, nevertheless, has been narrowing steadily in recent weeks. Small quantities of second-clip coarse wools were sold in late November to United States buyers near 55 (U.S.) cents per pound c. & f. Boston, greasy basis, from 5 to 10 cents under the previous month. Dealers at the moment would consider selling new-clip coarse fleeces at 65 to 70 cents, a considerable retreat from previous demands. Current United States offers are approximately 52 cents for second-clip and 63 cents for fleeces.

The latest policy of the Argentine customs is apparently to refuse export clearance on wool sold lower than 60 cents per pound c.&f., basis second clip. Presumably the basis for BA 5/6's will be at least 10 cents higher.

Producers to date have sold very little of the new-clip coarse wools, holding instead for peso prices above the present United States equivalent. Hope is dwindling for a favorable revision in exchange rates, however, and urgent requirements for cash are weakening rapidly their position.

Apparel wools are priced far above the world markets and trade is negligible. A large sale of fine crossbreds to a local mill last week brought 150 pesos per 10 kilos, greasy basis, equivalent to $1.50 c.&f. per pound, at the applicable exchange rate of 500 pesos to 100 U. S. dollars. Actual United States offers for similar wool are $1.00 or less.

According to the Buenos Aires Herald, only 620 thousand pounds of wool were exported in October 1951, one of the smallest quantities on record. Shipments to the United States accounted for nearly 400 thousand pounds. In October a year ago, the exports were about 12 million pounds.

URUGUAY WOOL
MARKET INACTIVE

The Uruguay wool market in November continued inactive with prices nominal and very few sales or exports. Sales of new-clip wool to the United States amounted to only 190 bales and all of Western Europe only purchased 192 bales. Exports for the season beginning October 1 were 4,669 bales, all old-clip wool, with the United States receiving 1,364 bales.

FATS AND OILS

ANTARCTIC WHALING SEASON TO OPEN JANUARY 2, 1952

The 1952 Antarctic whaling season will begin on January 2, 10 days later than the opening date of the previous season, according to a report of the United States Commissioner on the Third Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission at Capetown, Union of South Africa, July 23-27, 1951. The comparatively low yield of oil from whales taken during December was the basis for the decision by the Commission to postpone the opening of the 1952 season. It is understood that a tentative closing date has been scheduled for April 7, 1952, by which time the catch limit of 16,000 blue-whale units presumably will be reached. (1 blue-whale unit = 1 blue whale, or 2 fin whales, or 2.5 humpback whales, or 6 sei whales.)

During the 1950-51 Antarctic season, which lasted only 78 days (December 22, 1950 to March 9, 1951) a total of 31,174 whales were caught by the pelagic expeditions. In spite of the early closing date, the 16,000 blue-whale unit limit was exceeded by 413 units. Of these, 129 units are known to have been lost, so that only 16,284 units actually were processed.

Humpback whaling commenced on February 1 and terminated on February 7, 1951. Although the permitted catch for humpbacks was 1,250 whales, more than 1,600 were captured. Faulty returns from pelagic expeditions and atmospheric disturbances affecting radio transmission were responsible in part for the excessive take.

Material employed in the 1950-51 Antarctic operations included 19 floating factories, 3 land stations, and 262 catcher boats. If the catch of the South Georgia land stations is included, approximately 34,000 whales were captured in the waters south of 40 degrees South Latitude. Total Antarctic production of whale oil, inclusive of 47,300 short tons of sperm oil, was about 430,000 tons, as compared with 404,400 tons in the previous season.

The International Whaling Commission was established pursuant to the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling signed at Washington, December 2, 1946, and entered into force November 10, 1948. The main object of the Commission is to promote and secure the conservation of whale stocks without causing widespread economic and nutritional distress. The necessity for an international regulating body can be seen from the fact that in 1939 the blue whale, the largest mammal that has ever lived, constituted approximately 80 percent of the total Antarctic catch, while in 1950-51 the stock of blue whales was reduced to such an extent that this species made up only 22 percent of the total catch.

Contracting Governments entitled to appoint Commissioners to the Third Annual Meeting of the Commission were: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Sweden, Union of South Africa, the United

Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union. At this Meeting Brazil, Mexico, Iceland, and New Zealand were not represented. Representatives of The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations were present as usual as observers. Representatives of Peru, Argentina and Italy also were present as observers.

The Commission approved a number of amendments or alterations to the schedule to the 1946 convention, including the limiting of sperm whaling by factory ships to 8 months out of any period of 12 months. This particular amendment, however, is subject to an extended period of notification before going into effect.

It was decided that the fourth meeting of the Commission should be convened at London, England on June 3, 1952.

U.S. LARD EXPORTS
UP 18 PERCENT

Exports of lard from the United States for the crop year ending September 30, 1951, totaled 306,415 short tons compared with 259,376 tons a year earlier--an increase of 18 percent. The pattern of exports changed materially in respect to 4 countries. Most notable was the increase in sales to the United Kingdom. Only token purchases were made here in 1949-50, but in the past crop year the United Kingdom purchases were exceedingly heavy and exports totaled 87,799 tons--the largest for any single country. The only other important increase in export sales was to Yugoslavia where the 1950 drought and the subsequent United States aid program resulted in some 38,000 tons of lard exports compared with less than 3,000 tons in the preceding crop year. Thus, these 2 countries alone were up about 123,000 tons and accounted for more than 40 percent of total exports.

Conversely, sales to Germany and Austria dropped sharply--more than 80,000 tons--and offset much of the increases to the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

Except for the special case of Yugoslavia, these sharp changes in lard exports to European countries during the last 2 crop years appear to be explained largely by the availability and release of dollars for lard purchases. During 1951, the United Kingdom allocated dollar exchange for lard purchases while as a matter of national policy under a tight dollar situation, no allocations were made for lard purchases during 1950. Germany and Austria, on the other hand, used millions of dollars for United States lard in 1950, but because of ensuing dollar shortages were forced mainly to a trade agreements basis for fats and oils imports during 1951.

UNITED STATES: Lard exports,
crop years 1949-50, 1950-51

(Short tons)

Country of destination	Oct. 1949-Sept. 1950	Oct. 1950-Sept. 1951 1/
North America:		
Canada	5,951	9,738
Costa Rica	2,395	3,435
Cuba	75,839	69,790
Dominican Republic	549	-
El Salvador	550	1,493
Guatemala	3,050	3,648
Haiti	2,986	2,425
Mexico	13,821	13,774
Netherlands Antilles	2,149	428
Panama Canal Zone	244	437
Panama, Republic of	2,870	2,982
Other	638	321
Total	111,042	108,471
South America:		
Bolivia	926	1,164
Brazil	30	18
Colombia	365	1,527
Ecuador	176	86
Peru	5,401	5,090
Venezuela	3,593	4,188
Other	94	69
Total	10,585	12,142
Europe:		
Austria	34,766	9,672
Belgium-Luxembourg	1,684	2,094
Czechoslovakia	26	-
France	3	1,452
Germany	71,321	15,022
Greece	-	13
Italy	2,011	797
Netherlands	13,888	22,976
Poland	521	-
Switzerland	1,687	2,069
Trieste	3,380	216
United Kingdom	1	87,799
Yugoslavia	2,986	38,002
Other	213	512
Total	132,487	180,624
Asia	5,113	5,072
Africa	126	82
Oceania	23	24
Grand total	259,376	306,415

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

ARGENTINE NOVEMBER GRAIN EXPORTS CONTINUE DOWNWARD TREND

Argentina's grain exports during November 1951, the twelfth month of that country's 1950-51 grain marketing season, amounted to only 187,000 long tons. This was the lowest total for any month of the season except for December 1950 when new crop supplies were just becoming available. Argentina's grain marketing season runs from December through November for wheat, rye, oats and barley, and from April through March for corn.

Approximately 43 percent of the November 1951 exports consisted of wheat, 28 percent of corn and 27 percent of barley. Brazil was the most important destination for the wheat, France for the corn, and Germany for the barley.

During the first 5 months July-November of the 1951-52 world grain marketing season, Argentina's grain exports totaled 1,106,000 tons compared with 1,355,000 tons during the corresponding period a year earlier. This represented an over-all reduction of 18 percent. Compared with the same 5 months last season, wheat exports show a reduction of 27 percent, rye of 92 percent and oats of 74 percent. On the other hand corn and barley exports show substantial increases from the low levels of the same 5 months a year ago.

The bulk of the July-November 1951 wheat exports went to Brazil, India, Italy and Peru, those 4 countries taking 83 percent of the total. Virtually all of the rye, corn, oats and barley exports during that period went to European countries.

Argentina's total export movement during the 12 months (December-November) of its 1950-51 wheat, rye, oats and barley marketing season, with the corresponding figures for 1949-50 shown in parenthesis, was as follows: wheat, 2,691,000 long tons (2,681,000); rye, 191,000 long tons (191,000); oats, 99,000 long tons (403,000); and barley 137,000 long tons (100,000). For corn, Argentina's exports thus far (April-November) during the current season amounted to 242,000 long tons compared with 444,000 tons during the same 8 months last season.

(See Table on Following Page)

Argentine Grain Exports During November 1951
and July-November 1951 with comparisons

Destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	All grains
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
November 1951						
Brazil	69,651	-	-	246	-	69,897
Paraguay	3,997	-	-	-	-	3,997
Peru	6,397	-	-	-	-	6,397
Austria	-	-	-	-	6,496	6,496
France	-	-	49,224	-	-	49,224
Germany	-	-	-	1,673	35,368	37,041
Switzerland . . .	-	-	2,353	2,461	-	4,814
Yugoslavia . . .	-	-	-	-	9,202	9,202
Total	80,045	-	51,577	4,380	51,066	187,068
November 1950	140,097	14,763	169	38,710	12,891	206,630
July-November 1951						
Brazil	344,659	-	--	1,225	-	345,884
Chile	13,912	-	-	-	-	13,912
Paraguay . . .	24,146	-	-	-	-	24,146
Peru	46,214	-	-	-	-	46,214
Austria	-	-	-	-	6,496	6,496
Belgium	4,374	3,924	9,261	4,745	20,659	42,963
France	20,590	-	173,608	-	5,420	199,618
Germany	17,750	98	5,531	13,346	68,504	105,229
Italy	47,595	-	-	-	-	47,595
Netherlands . .	6,653	-	6,596	4,092	10,955	28,296
Sweden	-	-	82	8,036	-	8,118
Switzerland . .	-	-	27,285	10,630	4,527	42,442
United Kingdom	1,856	-	1,506	8,036	-	11,398
Yugoslavia . .	-	-	-	-	9,202	9,202
Egypt	5,240	-	-	-	-	5,240
French Africa .	27,491	-	984	-	-	28,475
India	141,184	-	-	-	-	141,184
Total . . .	701,664	4,022	224,853	50,110	125,763	1,106,412
July-November 1950	961,199	48,802	124,833	196,175	23,824	1,354,833

Compiled from records of El Cerealista, Buenos Aires.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equiv. US¢ a lb. Spot quotation	Equiv. US¢ a lb. Export & intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, FG	12-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	116.20	67.06	11.54
Ashmouni, Good	"	"	"	100.70	58.11	11.54
Ashmouni, FGF	"	"	"	92.20	53.21	11.54
Karnak, FG	"	"	"	195.50	112.82	11.54
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	159.25	91.90	11.54
Karnak, FGF	"	"	"	118.00	68.10	11.54
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 810.00	21.54	3/ 21.28
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	2/ 925.00	24.60	3/ 21.28
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine	12-26	82.28 lbs.	"	125.00	45.83	13.85
289F Sind, SG, Fine	"	"	"	126.50	46.38	13.85
289F Punjab, SG, Fine	"	"	"	132.50	48.58	13.85
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B	12-27	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	8400.00	76.20	7.11
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2	12-25	101.4 lbs.	Sol	4/ 597.00	38.38	16.34
Tanguis, Type 5	"	"	"	(not available)		
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	(not available)		
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4		33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro			
Sertao, Type 5		"	"			
Sertao, Type 4		"	"			
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5	12-27			345.00	56.76	3.0% ad valorem
Torreon		Sp. quintal				
Middling, 15/16"		101.4 lbs.	Peso			
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	42.05	------

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Reported 810.00 (21.54) to 820.00 (21.81--ceiling).

2/ Ceiling price.

3/ Export tax December 20, 1951, should be 21.28.

4/ Nominal.

CANADIAN COTTON
CONSUMPTION LOW

Consumption of cotton in Canada during the first 4 months of the 1951-52 season was 131,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), a decrease of 15 percent from the 154,000 bales consumed during the corresponding period of 1950-51, according to Francis A. Flood, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa. It now appears that consumption in 1951-52 may not exceed 425,000 bales compared with the postwar high of 479,000 bales consumed in 1950-51.

The current recession in Canadian mill consumption of cotton began in July 1951 with consumption during that month falling to 28,000 bales, considerably below the 32,000 bales consumed in July 1950 and the level of more than 40,000 bales monthly consumption maintained during the spring of 1951. There was some seasonal increase in consumption in September and October, reaching almost 36,000 bales in the latter month. However, in November consumption declined again to 34,000 bales. The weak demand for cotton goods is generally considered the primary factor responsible for the decline in consumption. This demand position has resulted from large inventories of goods in the marketing channels and from the relatively slow placement of defense orders with the cotton mills. In the last 6 months it is estimated that about 10 or 11 percent of total mill output has gone into military orders. However, heavy goods such as tire cord and tarpaulins have accounted for most of these contracts. While the mills producing these heavy goods have been able to maintain a high level of production, those mills manufacturing luxury cotton goods have had to cut production levels sharply.

Imports of raw cotton during the first 3 months of 1951-52 totaled about 63,000 bales, only half the 125,000 bales imported in the same months of 1950-51. Imports during the 1950-51 season totaled 509,000 bales. About 60,000 bales of the 1951-52 total were obtained from the United States, and the remaining 3,000 bales from Mexico. During August through October 1950, Canada imported 60,000 bales of cotton from Mexico. The reduction in imports from Mexico is attributed to the higher prices demanded for Mexican cotton in relation to those for United States cotton.